protecting and adding value to indigenous resources; adopting an appropriate mix of traditional, conventional and modern technologies; developing and nurturing human resource; strengthening basic research in the areas of frontline science and; promoting S&T interventions in major socio-economic Ministries and States so as to make them real stake holders of S&T. The Government's initiatives included support to research programmes, S&T mission mode programmes, establishment of new research centres of excellence, international collaborative projects and establishment of collaborative institutions with other countries, strengthening of R&D infrastructure in academic institutions and research labs, assistance for technology development and commercialization, institution of prestigious fellowships like Swarnajayanti Fellowship for outstanding Young Scientists, Ramanna Fellowship for performing scientists, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Fellowship for Young Scientists.

Major new initiatives include: National Biotechnology Development Strategy; Nano Science & Technology Initiative; National Mission on Bamboo Applications; Seismology Mission; Drug & Pharmaceuticals R&D; New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative; Tsunami Warning System etc.

(c) The Plan funds allocated for development and promotion of S&T during the last three years is given below:

2002-03	-	Rs. 4310 Cr.
2003-04	-	Rs. 4595 Cr.
2004-05	-	Rs. 5704 Cr.

Draft National Bio-tech Strategy

454. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Draft National Bio-tech Strategy propose to achieve the full potential of this sun rise sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the policy would attract both domestic and foreign investment in Bio-tech sector and if so, the annual turnover to be achieved by it; and

(d) the suggestions received regarding this policy and the time by which the policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) A Draft National Biotech Strategy has been prepared by Department of Biotechnology, Government of India in consultation with Senior Scientists, Policy Makers, Representatives of the Industry, NGO's and other Stake Holders. The main thrust of the proposed strategy is on promoting biotechnology innovation, research and product development to facilitate economic growth. The strategy is being formulated to ensure that the country not only builds on the existing platform but expands the base to create global leadership in biotechnology by unleashing the full potential that the country has to offer.

(c) Yes, Sir. The strategy aims at attracting domestic and foreign investment in biotech sector. The strategy envisages an annual turn over of US$5 billion by 2010.

(d) The Draft Biotech Strategy was placed on the departmental web site on 31st March, 2005 and was open for comments up to 16th May, 2005. More than 250 comments have been received from students; scientists from academia, research institutes and industry; policy makers; NGO's and international organizations. Consultations have also been held with representatives of NGO's and industries.

In general, there is a clear appreciation of the proposed strategy, however, specific suggestions have been received with regard to certain issues under human resource development, agriculture biotechnology, biotech parks, industry incentives, regulatory mechanism, centres of excellence and public communication. These suggestions are now being examined within the department and with relevant expert groups. Inter ministerial discussion/consultation are also being organized to examine the suggestions which need to be incorporated. The revised document incorporating these suggestions will be examined by the Expert Committee and thereafter finalized. In these circumstances it is not possible to give any specific time frame within which the Draft Biotech Policy will be announced.